

# PENNATULA PHOSPHOREA.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Flores* Hydræ, ad marginem denticulatum pinnarum.

*Stirps* libera, subulata, apice pinnata.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 1321.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

PENNATULA stirpe carnosa, rachi scabra, pinnis imbricatis.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 1322.

# PENNATULA PHOSPHOREA.

*Ellis Act. Angl.* v. 53. t. 19. f. 1—5.

# PENNA MARINA.

*Baubin Hist.* 3. p. 802.

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Pennatulæ genus constituunt Zoophytorum moventium, more piscis natantium. Formæ sunt plerumque perelegantis. Species quam descripsimus est fortasse vulgatissima. Circa littora Britanniaë frequens reperitur, et non raro adhæret piscatorum lineis. Animal constat corpore, seu velut stipite paulum complanato, et inde in ramos laterales numerosos expanso, quorum parietes interni in tubulos multos dividuntur, e quorum apicibus totidem prodeunt velut hydrarum,

hydrarum, seu polyporum capitula, cum suis tentaculis. Totum igitur animal videtur esse hydra ramosa et valde composita, cujus corpus in stipite, seu parte nuda continetur, atque in numerosissimos ramulos utrinque continuatur, singulo ramulo peculiari suo capite instructo.

Mirum hoc animal lucem adeo phosphoream emittit, ut piscatores pisces prope ludentes solo Pennatulæ lumine distincte perspicere possint. Color ejus vivide ruber est, et communis magnitudo ut repræsentat tabula.

a. Ramulus microscopio auctus.





THE  
PHOSPHORIC PENNATULA,  
OR  
SEA - PEN.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

*Animal* free, or locomotive.

*Body* (generally) expanding into processes on the upper part.

*Processes* or branches furnished with rows of tubular denticles.

*Polype-head* proceeding from each tube.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SEA-PEN with fleshy stem, middle part rough, pinnules imbricated.

BRITISH SEA-PEN.

*Ellis Zooph.* p. 61.

THE COMMON SEA-PEN.

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The Pennatulæ or Sea-Pens form a genus of locomotive Zoophytes, and swim in the manner of a fish. They are in general of a very beautiful appearance. The species here exhibited is the most common: it is found in considerable plenty on the British coasts, and  
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is drawn up in numbers adhering to the baits of fishermen's lines. The animal consists of a somewhat flattened stem or body, which is furnished with an internal bone, and dilates into an expanded part consisting of a great many pinnæ or lateral branches, which are divided on their inner edges into a number of tubular processes, through each of which is protuded a part of the animal, resembling the head of a hydra or polype: the whole animal therefore may be considered as a very compound or ramified hydra or polype, the body of which is contained in the naked part or stem, and from thence ramifies into a vast number of processes, each furnished with its particular head.

This curious animal emits a very strong phosphoric light, and it is even so luminous that it is no uncommon circumstance for the fishermen to see the fish which happen to be swimming near it, merely by the light of the Pennatula. Its colour is a bright red or crimson, and the general size that of the figure.

*a.* One of the pinnæ magnified.